

GBC degree grads accepted to University masters programs

Some George Brown grads are using their applied degrees to get into the ivory tower of Ontario university masters programs. They have been accepted on the merit of their George Brown degrees into graduate programs at the University of Waterloo, University of Windsor and Ryerson University.

Until our pioneering grads proved it could be done, the ability of college degree graduates to pursue masters level studies in Ontario was an open question. All Ontario universities consider applicants for graduate programs on an individual basis and some universities specify university undergraduate honours degrees for admission.

University admissions officers are currently divided in how they react to applicants with these relatively new college applied degrees. While there are currently about 4,500 applied degree students in Ontario colleges, a much smaller number of new grads started appearing in the last three years.

George Brown grad Erin Foote found she had no problem being accepted into the Master of Taxation program at the University of Waterloo. As one of the first graduates of the college's Bachelor of Applied Business - Financial Services program in the Accounting Stream, Foote was accepted into the program immediately after graduation.

They had to take one university course before they admitted her, but even that was not a problem. "I and a few other people had to take one pre-admission course, but it was actually a repeat of a tax course I had already taken," said Foote. "They weren't sure if our program had covered that material, but I came out of it with a 96 per cent, so I guess George Brown really does teach you what you need to know."

Fellow Financial Services graduate Christopher Deir has already fast-tracked a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree at the Odette School of Business at the University of Windsor. With his George Brown degree, he was able to complete the program in one year, instead of the usual two.

"Because George Brown balanced our theoretically knowledge with hands-on lessons, group work and case studies, this real-life perspective helped me with the course work of the MBA program."

Despite being in the first graduating class from George Brown's Bachelor of Applied Technology degree program, Jonathan Cohen's George Brown degree was accepted without any issues at all for entry into the Master of Building Science program at Ryerson University.

In fact, Cohen says the degree was respected. "I was up against professionals, people who had been working in the industry for years and were coming back to do their masters," he said. "The competition was pretty stiff, they took a limited number of students into the program and I was one of them."

But given the small number of grads pursuing advanced degrees, and the fact that some Ontario universities have rejected George Brown degree grads, it may be too early to predict wider acceptance of the new degrees, says George Brown Academic Vice-President Michael Cooke.

"It will take time for the marketplace - both employers and post-secondary institutions - to determine the full value of these degrees," he says.

Senior college staff is aware of the issue and are working on it with other colleges, he says.

Some universities outside of Ontario and in other countries say they welcomed applied degree graduates into masters level programs. Three graduates of George Brown's Hospitality Operations Management degree program, for instance, have been accepted into a six-month MBA in International Hospitality Management offered by IMI, a private educational institution in Lucerne, Switzerland.

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JAMIE OLIVER AT THE CHEFS' HOUSE: George Brown Chef School students were wowed in mid-November by a surprise cooking demonstration by British TV chef Jamie Oliver. Oliver drew gasps as he headed unannounced into the kitchen of The Chefs' House restaurant on King Street for the televised demonstration of how to make sautéed mushrooms on toast. He praised George Brown's new training restaurant. "This restaurant is incredibly important because for many, many years we've taught students in miserable, dark kitchens and you're never really cooking for customers...and this place is as cool as anything I've seen," he said. The televised portion of his visit to George Brown, courtesy of CTV, is posted on the college's website.

Computer passwords now expire every 17 weeks

To improve college computer system security, staff and student passwords for STU-VIEW, WebCT, Banner, wireless access and library computer access now expire automatically every 17 weeks (from the date of the last password set up) and must be changed by the user.

Changing a password is fast and easy at <https://service.georgebrown.ca/>. Due to systems and process improvements, the new password will take effect within 15 minutes. Please note: this change does not affect e-mail passwords.

Oakville Fire Chief started career with GBC electrical diploma

Growing up as the only child of the owner of an electrical contracting business it seemed like the most natural thing in the world when Richard Boyes decided to join the family business. After studying to be an electrician and graduating from George Brown in 1974 he headed back home to Alliston, Ont. and joined W.G. Boyes Contracting Ltd. and its subsidiary, Boyes Electric. Then one day he made the fateful decision to sign on as a volunteer firefighter with the Alliston Fire Department — and ended up discovering a passion that would change his life forever.

With contracting now in the past, Boyes is now Fire Chief of the Oakville Fire Department, responsible for seven fire stations, a staff of 198 and a budget of \$22 million. He's also President of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, advocating for fire services and advising government on public safety issues in Ontario, and a member of the Canadian and international associations of Fire Chiefs.

For years, Boyes juggled his full-time work as a residential, commercial and industrial electrician and contractor with volunteer firefighting, even as his responsibilities in both areas continued to grow. After the death of his father in 1980, Boyes took over the business, eventually closing the electrical side to concentrate on the core contracting business. In the meantime, he continued to be promoted in the fire department, becoming Alliston's Fire Chief in 1985. When municipal amalgamation merged Alliston with the neighbouring communities, fire services grew from one station and 25 firefighters to three stations and 100 firefighters and Boyes was given the additional responsibility of Chief Fire Official of the newly amalgamated town.

Boyes' growing volunteer work started to take a toll on his contracting business. Volunteering was costing him "a small fortune," as he puts it. So in 1990 he made the decision, endorsed by his wife Bonnie, to close his business and pursue a career as a professional firefighter. Working for the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshall and relocating to London, Boyes spent six years as a Fire Protection Advisor. He is most proud of his role in helping to establish the automatic aid program in Ontario. With 400 of the province's 478 fire departments run on a volunteer basis, the need for daytime staffing can be a critical issue. The automatic aid program ensures an automatic call for fire assistance from neighbouring stations, enhancing public safety.

Eager to get back to his firefighting roots, Boyes moved to Sarnia in 1997 to become the city's Fire Chief and Ontario Fire Co-ordinator, responsible for five stations, 100 full-time staff and a budget of \$11 million. After eight years in Sarnia, Boyes joined the Oakville Fire Department as Fire Chief in 2005, attracted by the challenges offered by a growing community. Since moving to Oakville, Boyes has



George Brown graduate Richard Boyes started his working life as an electrician but is now Fire Chief of the Oakville Fire Department.

been elected President of the Fire Chiefs of Ontario, consulting on issues of public safety with the Premier and provincial cabinet ministers.

Boyes says his time at George Brown had a significant and long lasting impact on his career. One of the most important lessons he learned, he says, was on one of his first days when he and his classmates had to form groups and started pairing up with people they knew. The instructor stopped them and instead matched them with strangers. "He said: 'One thing you have to learn in life is that you don't get to pick who you work with, so you have to learn how to get along.' That's a lesson I've carried with me ever since — you don't have to like who you work with, but you have to accept them and learn to work together."

Coming from a small town, Boyes says the diversity of students he encountered in Toronto helped to open up his world and broaden his outlook. "There was as much education in life that came from George Brown as in the electrical trade. It was a great experience for a guy from a small town," he recalls.

In addition, Boyes says the electrical training he received gave him an important advantage in firefighting because he has an understanding about wiring and construction that provides him with insight into the way a particular fire may start or accelerate. He says there's been more than one occasion where an insurance company has thought a fire was electrical and he was able to set them straight.

Community service has been an integral part of Boyes' life. He chaired the Alliston Public Utilities Commission for nine years and was president of the Alliston and District Minor Hockey Association. Professionally, he has chaired International Association of Fire Chiefs Transportation Emergency Rescue Committee (TERC), and has been vice-chair of the World Rescue Organization.

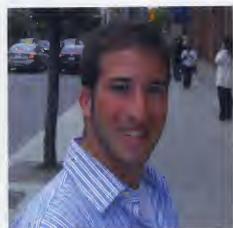
GBC degree grads

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So far, graduate-school success for college grads is anecdotal. George Brown and Colleges Ontario, an association of Ontario colleges, have not systematically or formally collected information about the success of applied degree grads in getting into graduate programs. Graduates currently don't even have the option of indicating they are in a masters program when they completing a graduate survey — just that they are in university.

About 22 per cent of George Brown graduates who continue their education do so in the full-time university program, according to the latest graduate survey.

Across the province the proportion of college graduates who continue their studies at university after college has increased from less than 5 per cent in 2000 to almost 9 per cent in 2006.



George Brown degree program graduate Jonathan Cohen has been accepted into a Master's degree program at Ryerson University — one of several graduates who have used their college applied degrees to enter graduate programs.

WATERFRONT CAMPUS UPDATE: City Council gives waterfront campus green light

Toronto City Council approved a proposal on Dec. 1 to lease waterfront lands on Queen's Quay East to George Brown for its new health sciences campus and student residence.

The campus will house the College's Centre for Health Sciences including nursing, dental, fitness and lifestyle programs, a 500-bed student residence and three levels of underground parking for 558 cars. The plan also includes a proposal for a recreational and aquatic facility.

The City agreed to a 103 year ground lease with George Brown, consisting of an initial four year design and construction period followed by a 99 year term. Details on construction and development of the campus are set out in agreements between Waterfront Toronto, as revitalization lead with responsibility for the overall coordination of waterfront projects and infrastructure, and George Brown, as builder and future owner of the campus buildings.

Rent for the land will be paid to Waterfront Toronto for the first 24 years and then to the city for the balance of the lease, which will be based on unimproved value of the land used for educational purposes.

"The City of Toronto is delighted to be a partner with George Brown College for this exciting project," said Mayor David Miller. "A post-secondary education facility is an ideal use for these lands. It will take us a step closer to realizing the City's waterfront revitalization goals by providing year-round public access to a vibrant lake shore while meeting the objectives of Toronto's Agenda for Prosperity by offering employment opportunities and economic growth."

"George Brown College is Toronto's downtown college and it is a perfect partner for revitalizing Toronto's waterfront," said Waterfront Toronto President John Campbell. "We are thrilled that Council has approved the lease of this land to George Brown

College for its new Health Sciences Centre as it lays the groundwork for other knowledge based industries to join the East Bayfront community."

"We are delighted that Council has demonstrated its belief in a project that is so important to the city's future and that we can move ahead with our third major campus," said George Brown President Anne Sado. "This new campus is fundamental to helping us better support the career aspirations of students across the GTA and meeting employers' growing demand for workplace-ready graduates. We plan on making George Brown College a centerpiece of the Waterfront rejuvenation, bringing the area alive with a showpiece of academic excellence and student energy."

The total estimated cost of the project is \$190 million and the campus is projected to attract more than 3,500 students. Academic facilities will be funded by the Government of Ontario and George Brown College. The College will seek out private partners to jointly finance and build the student residence and recreation facility. Waterfront Toronto and George Brown College will each provide 50 per cent of the funding for the underground parking and will share revenue on that basis as well. Some parking spots will be provided, according to the lease agreement, to tenants of the nearby First Waterfront Place building occupied by Corus Entertainment.

Remaining Planning and Building Permit approvals will be finalized over the next 12 months as GBC gears up for construction. Construction, which must meet LEED Gold environmental requirements, is slated to begin late in 2009.

A request for proposals for planning and design of the campus was issued in early November with a closing date of Dec. 10, 2008.



DESIGN OPEN HOUSE — School of Design Student Co-ordinator Niyousha Kerr (left) and Technician Pricilla Li check out a three-legged chrome and vinyl chair in the special exhibition at the School of Design open house on Nov. 14. "It reminds me of the retro 60s," says Li. The chair designed in 1960, is part of an exhibition of work by Toronto architect and industrial designer Court Noxon that will be open daily, at the new School of Design location at 230 Richmond St. E., until the end of January. The exhibition is organized by Dominion Modern, an archive of Canadian modern design and architecture.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE CAREER AND WORK COUNSELLING PROGRAM: Career and Work Counselling program graduates David Hurlburt (left) and Mark Pundzius are presented with Crystal Awards for Service by Alumni Relations Director Janice Howard during a reception celebrating the program's first 20 years on Nov. 13. Hurlburt and Pundzius formerly staffed the Careerwise program offered by the Alumni Relations Office. Hurlburt is currently a Career Advisor in the Career Centre at Casa Loma. More than 200 staff, students and alumni attended. Other Crystal Awards went to Joseph Stalteri and D. Wesley Leicester for Innovation, Lorraine Katanik for Leadership. JVS was given the Crystal Employer Award.

Community Services professor nominated for Premier's Award

Loyalist College, in Belleville, Ont., has nominated George Brown Community Services Professor Mandy Bonisteel for an Ontario Premier's Award.

Bonisteel, who is a professor and co-ordinator in George Brown's Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor Advocate program, graduated from Loyalist's Nursing program in 1978. She has had a diverse career

focused primarily on anti-violence work: education, counselling, consulting, advocacy and activism. She is also a part-time registered nurse at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto on the psychiatric emergency intervention team. She founded the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District.

The provincial Premier's Awards program recognizes outstanding graduates from Ontario's public colleges.

President Anne Sado

At the heart of community



With the holiday season just around the corner – a time of year when our community needs are highlighted – we as a college community should feel proud of the strong support we provide for our surrounding community. We must continue to build on our commitment to those in need, especially during these difficult times.

Having been at GBC for five years now, I am constantly struck by the great extent to which the community is embedded in the College's identity. This is reflected in the generosity and dedication of staff, and in George Brown's long history as a community building institution. We celebrated this very proud part of the College's legacy last year during our 40th anniversary, and I was inspired by the response to and participation in our GBC 'Give Back' days.

I'd like to acknowledge just some of the many, many ways members of our community help the community. Here are just a few examples:

- Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the United Way Campaign. We are SO close to meeting our goal, and our results to date represent a 12.6 per cent increase over the contributions made last year
- Thanks to the Student Service Centre team who are once again sponsoring two families for the holidays. The goal (which I'm confident will be met!) is to raise \$500 for each family. The families will receive gift cards for groceries and gifts for their children.
- Thanks to the ECE team who are generously supporting and fundraising for one of their colleagues as that family faces the challenges of supporting their 18 year old son through a bone marrow transplant in the U.S. OHIP is paying for the procedure – but the family has the costs of living in the States while they're waiting for the transplant for their son.

- Thanks to the Hospitality team for once again supporting Peace of Cake. On Friday December 19th, 60 young people from Regent Park Pathways to Education will come to the college for a dinner and an evening of baking – to create 60 baskets to be distributed to Seniors in Regent Park.

Often we act in the interests of our community without a second thought because of the values we hold. While this is a very important part of our overall dedication, there is also an understanding that the College is also inextricably linked to the communities we serve, and that by building these communities we are also creating a stronger and healthier environment for ourselves. This convergence of individual values and commitment with organizational goals is what gives George Brown College its ability to make such an impact.

Whenever I reflect upon this, I feel incredibly privileged to be part of an organization where our desire to act is matched by our ability to act. My own personal motivation for community giving has always been straight forward – having the ability to help others is a privilege and comes with a natural responsibility, and there is no greater reward than seeing the success of someone who needed a helping hand.

As you spend time with family and loved ones this holiday season and enjoy a much-deserved break, remember to think of those who are less fortunate and know that your commitment to helping them is both valued and an essential part of the College. I wish you all a wonderful and restful holiday, and a happy and safe new year.

Professor/activist gets city's "Pride" Award

Community Services Professor and activist Anna Willats was given the "Pride" Award in a City Hall ceremony on Nov. 27, by Mayor David Miller as part of the City of Toronto's 2008 Access, Equity and Human Rights Awards. The Pride Award for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Transsexual Two Spirited Issues (LGBT2S), established in 2003, honours individuals and/or organizations that have made or are making a significant or ongoing contribution to the well-being and advancement of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,

transsexual and two spirited community in Toronto.

For almost a quarter century, Anna has been a community activist on Toronto's social justice scene. The City's website says of Willats, who is a professor in the Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate Program: "From anti-poverty demonstrations to LGBT2S cultural events, to police accountability issues, her work in the queer community has improved the lives of all Toronto residents."

GREEN SPOT

Did you know that the College uses more than 20 MILLION sheets of paper in photocopiers alone per year. If you stacked all that paper into one pile, it would be 3.6 times as high as the CN Tower!

Help us to achieve the College's Green Plan goal of reducing paper consumption by 15 per cent by:

- thinking first before you print,
- sharing electronic documents whenever possible (instead of hand-outs), printing double-sided and reducing the size of margins.

Teachers are also encouraged to use tools such as Web CT and where necessary, encouraging students to submit assignments double-sided.



George Brown News is a publication of the Marketing and Communications Department, George Brown College at 200 King St. East, Room 542E, Toronto, ON M5T 2T9
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